

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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MEMORANDUM FOR: C/MPRRD

ATTENTION:



SUBJECT: PRD Comments on "Long Range Intelligence Perspectives, 1980-1990"

1. We have quickly looked over your draft on long range intelligence perspectives and, without going into a great deal of detail, we offer a few comments.

2. I understand that this will be primarily an internal ICS document at this point--a background paper to be used in MPRRD to help in the development of longer-term resource planning techniques. With this purpose, we think it not terribly important to worry too much about detailed suggestions on factual points. Rather, the most important next step would be to develop ways to translate alternative shapes of the future into implications for resource planning. When progress has been made in that area then it will probably be necessary to return to this draft to make adjustments and refinements to make it mesh more fully with your resource planning methodology.

3. So at this time our comments are in the form of general remarks, primarily on form and organization:

- The paper is quite detailed and wide-ranging, and could usefully incorporate a summary which sets forth those key future contingencies that might affect our collection and analytic posture in the 1980s.
- It is far more predictive than it need be for the purpose you intend. Looking this far into the future is a game each reader can play with as much claim to prescience as anyone else. We suggest a more cautious approach which outlines the alternative ways the world might develop in the key areas, and avoid such statements as "Western Europe will enjoy virtually complete economic integration." Similar flat predictions occur frequently throughout the paper.

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- The important issue is, for example, how different US intelligence needs will be in the 1980s if Europe becomes more economically integrated as opposed to the situation if economic cooperation disintegrates and disappears. If there is no difference the question is trivial for intelligence resource planning. If there is a great deal of difference then planning hedges may be needed.
- It would be useful if you included a brief note of acknowledgment on your principal sources. It would give the reader a better sense of the authority from which you speak.

4. In brief, while this paper is a start on the right road, we suggest that you quickly move on to the next phase before trying to refine it in detail, or seek to define more closely the myriad ways the world might change by the 1980s.



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